

WILSON'S PEACE  
PLEA RECEIVED  
IN SILENCE

British Foreign Office Will  
Make No Statement Pending  
Consideration of the  
Matter, Which Is Said to  
Have Come Up Most Unexpectedly

WASHINGTON HAD  
DISTINCT SURPRISE

Only a Few of the Officials  
of the Administration  
Knew That Such a Move  
Was Contemplated by the  
President Until Note Was  
Despatched

London, Dec. 21.—The suggestion of the United States for an exchange of views among the belligerents has been received at the foreign office and is now under consideration, pending which no statement will be made.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—Distinct surprise was apparent among diplomatic officials to-day over President Wilson's plea to the European belligerents to discuss peace terms. The publication to-day of the note, furnished Monday and despatched Tuesday to the American diplomatic representatives abroad, gave most of the officials the first notice that such a step was even contemplated at this time.

Opinion here inclined toward the view that the action would give strong encouragement for some sort of exchange, which might result in discussion of definite terms between belligerents. Officials of the British embassy declared they were wholly unable to explain the action. Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, said: "Now I am perfectly convinced there will be a conference."

The president's notes to the belligerents have been virtually 48 hours on the way to-day and the officials believed that they had reached all the foreign capitals. Although all the official Washington was listening with keenest expectation to any indications how the note would be received, diplomats think it incredible that President Wilson should have taken his action without some belief that it would not be flatly rejected without consideration by the entente. The wish and hope of the German allies that he take some such step has long been well known and there is no doubt of the manner of its reception among them.

The British embassy officials made no attempt to conceal their surprise at the president's action. All official Washington had been led to believe that the president, in transmitting the German peace proposals without comment, had taken all the action to be expected from the United States for some time to come.

## THE TEXT OF WILSON NOTE.

Slightly Varied as Sent to Central Powers and the Entente.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—The notes to the belligerents are prefaced with this instruction by Secretary Lansing to the American ambassadors presenting them: "The president directs me to send you the following communication to be presented immediately to the minister of foreign affairs of the government to which you are accredited."

The texts of the notes themselves then begin identically as follows:

"The president of the United States has instructed me to suggest to the (here is inserted a designation of the government addressed) a course of action with regard to the present war which he hopes that the government will take under consideration as suggested in the most friendly spirit and as coming not only from a friend but also as coming from the representative of a neutral nation whose interests have been most seriously affected by the war and whose concern for its early conclusion arises out of a manifest necessity to determine how best to safeguard those interests if the war is to continue."

## Special Statement to Central Powers.

At this point the texts vary. In the note to the central powers this paragraph follows next:

"The suggestion which I am instructed to make the president has long had it in mind to offer. He is somewhat embarrassed to offer it at this particular time, because it may now seem to have been prompted by a desire to play a part in connection with the recent overtures of the central powers. It has in fact been in no way suggested by them in its origin and the president would have delayed offering it until those overtures had been independently answered, but for the fact that it also concerns the question of peace and may best be considered in connection with other proposals, which have the same end in view. The president can only beg that his suggestion be considered entirely on its own merits and as if it had been made in other circumstances."

## To Entente Powers.

In the note to the entente allies the following paragraph takes the place of the one just quoted:

"The suggestion which I am instructed to make the president has long had it in mind to offer. He is somewhat embarrassed to offer it at this particular time, because it may now seem to have been prompted by the recent overtures of the central powers. It is in fact in no way associated with them in its origin and the president would have delayed offering it until those overtures had been answered, but for the fact that it also con-

cerns the question of peace and may best be considered in connection with other proposals which have the same end in view. The president can only beg that his suggestion be considered entirely on its merits and as if it had been made in other circumstances."

## The Identical Statement.

Then, all the notes proceed identically as follows:

"The president suggests that an early occasion be sought to call out from all the nations now at war such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guaranty against its renewal or the kindling of any similar conflict in the future as would make it possible frankly to compare them. He is indifferent as to the means taken to accomplish this. He would be happy himself to serve, or even to take the initiative in its accomplishment, in any way that might prove acceptable, but he has no desire to determine the method or the instrumentality. One way will be as acceptable to him as another, if only the great object he has in mind be attained."

## Each Fights for Same Object.

"He takes the liberty of calling attention to the fact that the objects which the statesmen of the belligerents on both sides have in mind in this war are virtually the same, as stated in general terms to their own people and to the world. Each side desires to make the rights and privileges of weak peoples and small states as secure against aggression or denial in the future as the rights and privileges of the great and powerful states now at war. Each wishes itself to be made secure in the future, along with all other nations and peoples, against the recurrence of wars like this and against aggression of selfish interference of any kind. Each would be jealous of the formation of any more rival leagues to preserve an uncertain balance of power amidst multiplying suspicions; but each is ready to consider the formation of a league of nations to insure peace and justice throughout the world. Before that final step can be taken, however, each deems it necessary first to settle the issues of the present war upon terms which will certainly safeguard the independence, the territorial integrity and the political and commercial freedom of the nations involved."

"In the measures to be taken to secure the future peace of the world, the people and government of the United States are as vitally and as directly interested as the governments now at war. Their interests, moreover, in the means to be adopted to relieve the smaller and weaker peoples of the world of the peril of wrong and violence is as quick and ardent as that of any other people or government. They stand ready, and even eager, to co-operate in the accomplishment of these ends, when the war is over, with every influence and resource at their command. But the war must first be concluded. The terms upon which it is to be concluded they are not at liberty to suggest; but the president does feel that it is his right and his duty to point out their intimate interest in its conclusion, lest it should presently be too late to accomplish the greater things which lie beyond its conclusion, lest the situation of neutral nations, now exceedingly hard to endure, be rendered altogether intolerable, and lest, more than all, an injury be done civilization itself which can never be atoned for or repaired."

"The president, therefore, feels altogether justified in suggesting an immediate opportunity for a comparison of views as to the terms which must precede those ultimate arrangements for the peace of the world, which all desire and in which the neutral nations as well as those at war are ready to play their full responsible part. If the contest must continue to proceed towards undefined ends by slow attrition, until the one group of belligerents or the other is exhausted, if million after million of human lives must continue to be offered up until one side or the other there are no more to offer, if resentments must be kindled that can never cool and despair engendered from which there can be no recovery, hopes of peace and of the willing consent of free peoples will be rendered vain and idle."

"The life of the entire world has been profoundly affected. Every part of the great family of mankind has felt the burden and terror of this unprecedented contest of arms. No nation in the civilized world can be said to stand outside its influence or to be safe against its disturbing effects. And yet the concrete objects for which it is being waged have never been definitely stated."

"The leaders of the several belligerents have, as has been said, stated those objects in general terms. But, stated in general terms, they seem the same on both sides. Never yet have the authorized spokesmen of either side avowed definitive results, what actual exchange of guarantees, what political or territorial changes or readjustments, what stage of military success even, would bring the war to an end."

"It may be that peace is nearer than we know; that the terms which the belligerents on the one side and on the other would deem it necessary to insist upon are not so irreconcilable as some have feared; that an interchange of views would clear the way at least for conference and make the permanent concord of the nations a hope of the immediate future, a concert of nations immediately practicable."

"The president is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing that soundings be taken in order that he may learn, the neutral nation with the belligerent, how near the haven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with an intense and increasing spirit. He believes that the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light into the affairs of the world."

FOUR GERMAN  
PLANES DOWN

Considerable Aerial Activity  
Carried Out on the  
Western Front

LIEUT. HUNGESSOR  
GETS 21ST MACHINE

Paris Official Report Says  
There Was Very Little  
Other Activity

Paris, Dec. 21.—The French official statement to-day says that relative quiet prevails on the front in France with the exception of aerial activity. On the Somme front four enemy airplanes were brought down, one by Sub. Lieut. Hungessor, making a total of 21 machines brought down by him.

German Artillery Bombarded.  
The bulletin issued by the war office last night on the campaign in France reads:

"South of the Somme the enemy violently bombarded our lines during the day, especially in the sectors of Belley-Santerre, Berry, Pressoire, and Abbaucourt. Our artillery replied energetically. There were intermittent artillery actions on the rest of the front."

Belgium communication:  
"After a relatively quiet morning, the enemy opened in the course of the afternoon a violent artillery fire in the region of Hetas. The Belgian artillery silenced the enemy guns."

## SALE IS RATIFIED

And United States Will Soon Own Danish West Indies

Copenhagen, via London, Dec. 21.—After a single reading the bill ratifying the treaty for the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. The vote was 90 in favor of and 16 against ratification. Five members were absent.

When the bill came up for discussion, 14 members, of which six were Conservatives and eight of the left party, joined in moving an amendment asking the government to negotiate with the United States to purchase only St. John or St. Thomas, while Denmark would retain the other two islands. This was rejected by 90 to 14. The proposal for the sale of all three islands was then adopted.

The landholding, it is expected, will ratify the proposal to-day, and thus the sale of the islands will be definitely settled.

## PETITION AGAINST DEPORTATION

Will Be Submitted to Wilson By American People.

New York, Dec. 21.—A petition signed by persons prominent in all walks of life throughout the country and calling on the president of the United States "to throw the whole influence of his office against the deportation of the Belgians by the German government" will be forwarded to Washington, it was announced here last night by Elihu Root. The petition says:

"Inasmuch as the chief magistrate of a country is entitled to know the definite sentiments of the people we hereby petition the president of the United States to throw the whole influence of his office against the deportation of the Belgians by the German government."

"And we especially desire that in whatever manner seems best to him steps may be taken to join this country with the other neutral states of the American continent in a determined protest against this reversion to barbarism in warfare not to be witnessed by a civilized world without indignation."

## POSTPONED VOTE

On Question of Prohibition in District of Columbia.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—A parliamentary mislay by one of its friends late yesterday upset plans for an immediate vote on Senator Sheppard's District of Columbia prohibition bill and advocates of the measure were obliged to agree that it go over until after the Christmas holidays for final action.

The Senate agreed to a final vote on the measure on Jan. 9 after its opponents had been sustained by the chair in contending that its place on the Senate calendar had been lost by the action of Senator Ashurst in obtaining unanimous consent to consider a land bill.

## NEARLY DISASTER

Train Derailed By Automatic Device Near Bridgeport.

Bridgeport, Conn., Dec. 21.—An automatic derauling apparatus for an incoming train of the open drawbridge over the Pequonnock river caused the engine of an extra westbound express train on the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad to jump the rails near here last night. The train was going slowly, preparatory to making a station stop and none of the six coaches left the track.

Closely following the train was the fast Knickerbocker express which was stopped in time to prevent a crash.

## BROKE THROUGH ICE.

Man and Woman Drown in Pond at Arlington, Mass.

Arlington, Mass., Dec. 21.—John V. N. Hatfield of this town and a girl believed to be Anna Doten of Somerville were drowned in Spyn pond last night. They broke through the ice while skating. The bodies were recovered.

## Another Vermonter Killed.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 21.—R. J. Cooney of Vermont is mentioned among the dead in yesterday's overseas casualty list.

CLARKE C. FITTS DIED  
AT WATERTOWN, MASS.

Brattleboro Man Had Been One of the Foremost Figures of Vermont For Some Years.

Brattleboro, Dec. 21.—Clarke C. Fitts died last evening at 8 o'clock at the home of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Otis, in Watertown, Mass., aged 46 years. He was operated upon November 8 in the Corey Hill hospital at Brookline, Mass., for an intestinal trouble. Thanksgiving day he was moved to Watertown. He showed improvement for a time, but complications set in and for the past two days there had been no hope.

The funeral will be held at the Center Congregational church Saturday afternoon, Rev. Richard Clapp, the pastor, officiating. The body will be brought here to-night.

By the death of Clarke Cushing Fitts Brattleboro loses a man who had been most prominent in the affairs of the town and of the state in the last 15 years. During that period Mr. Fitts had a prominent part in the bringing to a successful head more large enterprises than any one other resident of the town. This he did in addition to handling a very large and lucrative law practice which he had built up by leaps and bounds almost from the time of his admission to the Vermont bar at the age of 21 years. He was counsel for many large interests.

He was born in Wardsboro, October 17, 1870, a son of Osmer C. and Abbie M. (Twitche) Fitts. His father died when he was 14 years of age. After a few terms in the Leland and Gray seminary and one year in the Brattleboro high school, from which he graduated, he entered the law office of Waterman, Martin & Hill as a law student and was admitted to the bar October 21, 1891, four days after he became of age.

Meanwhile he had become interested in a quarrying scheme which proved a failure. Not being locally of age at the time the heirs were held liable for his share of the loss, but he assumed his obligations and in eight years, although in straitened circumstances, he paid dollar for dollar every cent of his indebtedness.

Three years after being admitted to the bar he was elected state's attorney of Windham county and vigorously prosecuted such offenses as came under his jurisdiction and was especially active in his work against those who sold liquor illegally.

In 1901 he was offered the office of federal judge at Cape Nome, Alaska, at a salary of \$5,000 a year, but declined the appointment. In 1902 he represented a citizens' committee effort to obtain a charter for the Connecticut River Power company. Before that time he had been interested in the conservation of the water power resources of the state and ever since then he had preached whenever possible conservation, and had actively worked for it. In 1903 he obtained a charter for the company in New Hampshire. It was principally his work that resulted in the building of the big dam and power house at Vernon, representing capital of over a million dollars, the first of a series of such plants in this section.

Mr. Fitts had much to do with the settlement of the Thomas Thompson will in which the heirs were settled with for about \$200,000 and two-thirds of the income of about one million dollars was left for the relief of certain classes of poor in Brattleboro a part of which money built the Memorial hospital.

The new railroad station completed this year and the changing of the grade of Vernon street, involving the expenditure of several scores of thousands, was due to his persistence and ability as counsel for the local committee. It involved years of effort.

In 1904 he was elected town representative and after three months' service was elected the first attorney-general of the state, an office created by the legislature of which he was a member. He was re-elected for a second term of two years. During his career in that office occurred the trial of Mary Rogers of Bennington and her subsequent conviction and hanging. In this case an array of brilliant counsel opposed the young attorney-general. That was his last political appointment.

He was a staunch Republican in politics and of late years had been much sought as a campaign speaker. It was while engaged in the national campaign of this year in New York state that he was taken ill and forced to abandon his assignments.

He was a member of the Center Congregational church, a vice-president of the Greater Vermont association, president of the Vermont Bar association, a trustee of the Brattleboro Savings bank, a director of the People's National bank, a director of the S. A. Smith Manufacturing company and of the Hooker, Corser & Mitchell company, a member of the Masonic fraternity and of the Red Men, of the Brattleboro Country club and the Vermont Whist club.

Mr. Fitts first married in 1893 Miss Harriet Lyon of Londonderry, who died in 1897. He leaves two sons, by that marriage, Robert L., a student in the Harvard law school, and Stanley C., a student at Dartmouth college. In 1903 Mr. Fitts married for his second wife, Miss Maud L. Emerson of Brattleboro, who survives with a son, Osmer C., and a daughter, Miriam. He leaves also his mother and two sisters, Miss Mary and Miss Florence, all of Brattleboro. Hermon E. Eddy, just elected state senator, and Harold E. Whitney were his associates in his law practice.

## Veteran, Hale and Hearty.

Lucius J. Goodwin, one of the best known residents of Montpelier and a veteran of the Civil war, observed his 70th birthday to-day and received the congratulations of many friends. He is a native of Montpelier and when only 16 years of age he enlisted in the Civil war, first serving in Co. G, 4th Vermont, and then with Co. K, 7th Vermont, later with the 11th U. S. Infantry. At the battle of Spanish Fort, Alabama, he was taken prisoner. At the close of the war he went to California and later to the Black Hills of North Dakota. While in California he and another man walked 40 miles in order to vote for Grant for president and then walked back home again. Mr. Goodwin is well-preserved and does not look to be 70 years of age. He is at present the sexton of Christ church and resides near the church on State street.

GREAT RUSH  
TO UNLOAD

New York Stock Exchange  
Was Near Demoralization To-day

U. S. STEEL FELL  
OFF VERY SHARPLY

Largest Block of Steel Ever  
Sold in History of  
the Exchange

New York, Dec. 21.—Extreme weakness, bordering upon demoralization, marked the opening dealings on the stock exchange to-day. The so-called war shares broke from two to eleven points in the course of the first ten minutes.

The most sensational feature was the offering of 50,000 shares of United States steel at a decline of two to three and one-half below yesterday's closing. Never before in the history of the exchange has the sale of a single block of such volume been recorded. Two hundred and twenty thousand shares of steel were traded in the first half-hour.

The market continued to break during the noon hour, steel declining to 192½. The weakest industrial was Gulf Steel, which made an extreme loss of 20 points.

## COTTON GOES UPWARD.

Great Upturn Due to the Prospects of Early Peace.

New York, Dec. 21.—Cotton opened at an advance of from 26 to 38 points to-day, the upturn being largely attributed to the over-night development regarding peace. Reports were in circulation that one German steamship line was planning to resume service as early as February 1.

## WHEAT GOES DOWN.

Loss of Seven Cents Registered After Wilson's Note.

Chicago, Dec. 21.—A maximum decline of seven cents was registered in the wheat market at the opening to-day, caused by the president's peace note.

Later the market began to climb again and around noon it was more than four points above the bottom level touched at the outset.

PROHIBITION BILL  
SOMEWHAT CHANGED

As It Was Favorably Reported to the Senate By the Judiciary Committee

By the Vote of 13 to 3.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—The national prohibition amendment, materially altered from the way in which it was reported to the House, was ordered favorably reported by the Senate judiciary committee to-day, 13 to 3. Senators Culbertson, Reed and Brandegee voted against it.

## WILL BUILD A SLIP.

Construction in the Philadelphia Navy Yard Approved.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—Construction in the Philadelphia navy yard of a slip for building one of the four battle cruisers authorized by Congress has been determined upon by Secretary Daniels.

## TALK OF THE TOWN

Miss Winifred Jeffords of Williams-town was brought to the City hospital to-day and underwent an operation for appendicitis.

At a meeting of the Vermont Poultry association in the court room at city hall last evening final plans were made for the opening of the annual state show in the Church street gymnasium Tuesday morning. Cups to be distributed to the winning exhibitors have arrived and will be exhibited in the display window at R. W. Hooker & Co.'s furniture store for a few days. Registrations are coming in rapidly and while the poultry men were busy in their deliberations last evening a man from Tunbridge telephoned in his enrollment of a string of 36 birds. Some inconveniences will be encountered by reason of the fact that the exhibit follows Christmas so closely, but a committee will be on hand Monday to receive all shipments and the birds coming in will be cooped and assigned to their proper avenues in the gymnasium. Edwin Keast has been appointed superintendent of the hall and his assistants are William Oliver and Peter Park.

Prompt action on the part of James Gibson, a former National Guardsman and employed until recently as a bellhop at Hotel Barre, probably modified the results of a spectacular runaway on North Main street this forenoon. W. H. Martin, a Plainfield butcher, had left his horses near City park for a moment and was during his absence that the pair made their getaway. Down the street toward North Barre they dashed with the vigor they could summon and by the time they reached Depot square there seemed to be few pedestrians who would consider any move to arrest their flight. It was up to Gibson, but unlike other passersby, he was unware of the horses' approach until they had nearly overtaken him near Granite street. Without a thought of the consequences, Gibson dug his heels into the highway, made a flying leap through the doorway of the enclosed meat cab and was soon tugging at the reins. Near the Seminary street intersection, the horses feeling Mr. Gibson's determination to have his own way in the matter, quietly resigned. An oil heater which the butcher uses to maintain the temperature of the cab on the overland trip from Plainfield was burning cheerfully when Gibson, after reining the horses southward to the Jones & Nye livery, turned the rig over to the meat man. The ex-guardian was not permitted to go unwarded.

## MANY APPLICANTS

For First and Second Naturalization Papers at Montpelier.

First papers were granted to 14 applicants and 13 made application for the final papers at a session of naturalization court conducted in the federal building at Montpelier yesterday afternoon and evening. Court was in charge of Clerk Fred S. Platt of Rutland, assisted by United States Marshal Carpenter of Brattleboro, Deputy Marshal George Lackey of Montpelier, Bailiff J. S. Haley of Montpelier, intermediary C. DeF. Bancroft and Miss Mary Donnell of Barre, stenographer.

Those who were granted first papers follow: Jose Artasos, Spain; Montpelier; Edward Citrini, Italy; Montpelier; Stanley O. Davis, England; Montpelier; Esidro Gomez, Spain; Montpelier; Arthur Gould, Russia; Montpelier; Genaro Lavin, Spain; Montpelier; Adam Litalien, Province of Quebec, Montpelier; Aurele C-Le-gare, Province of Quebec, Groton; George Lueich, Austria; Montpelier; Felix Pagliuca, Italy; Montpelier; Joseph Peterson, Sweden; Montpelier; Peter Sanderson, Scotland; Montpelier; Federico Solari, Spain; Montpelier; Bolus Union, Syria; Montpelier.

Applicants for the second papers were George E. Bassingthwaite, England; Strafford; Chester H. Bomhower, Province of Quebec, Groton; Carl G. Carlson, Finland; Montpelier; Vasilios I. Doukas, Greece; Montpelier; Antonio DeVitro, Italy; Montpelier; Moises Gutierrez, Spain; Montpelier; Joseph W. Jackson, Scotland; Barnard; George E. Johnson, Province of Quebec, Marshfield; Albert E. Kingsbury, Province of Quebec, Waitsfield; Louis Lavin, Spain; Montpelier; Carlo Melada, Italy; Montpelier.

## A FEW YULETIDE DON'TS.

As Suggested By Chief Gladding to Prevent Fires.

That Yuletide happiness may not be marred any one of the numerous mishaps and accidents that sometimes grow into tragedies with surprising swiftness, a number of precautionary "don'ts" are suggested by Chief Gladding of the fire department. Throughout the country local chiefs are asked to co-operate with National Fire Protection association in urging the value of caution in Christmas celebrations. Anyone who contemplates an observance of Christmas along conventional lines will do well to scan the chief's suggestions before lighting the Christmas tree and donning the usually inflammable make-up of Santa Claus.

Here are some of the suggestions that may save a good bit of trouble in the next few days. Light inflammable decorations make fire easy to start and easy to spread. A match, a gas flame or an electrical defect may do it. Watch gas jets. Decorations may be carried against them by air currents. Do not decorate your Christmas tree with paper, cotton or any other inflammable material. Use tinsel and other non-inflammable decorations only, and set the tree securely so that children in reaching for things cannot tip it over.

Do not use cotton to represent snow. If you must have snow, use powdered mica or asbestos fibre. Do not permit children to light or relight the candles while parents are not present. Frequent-ly they set fire to their clothing instead. Electrical illumination is safer. In this connection, merchants who decorated their display windows with extra electrical fixtures are urged to see to it that the insulation is perfect. Defective insulation is the means, many times, of starting a bad blaze in inflammable material.

## WAS SCHOOL PRINCIPAL.

Ellen B. Corley of Burlington Died After Operation.

Burlington, Dec. 21.—Ellen B. Corley, superior of St. Joseph's convent and principal of St. Joseph's schools for the last eight years, died yesterday afternoon at the Fanny Allen hospital after a week's illness. Miss Corley, though a native of Albany, Vt., received her education here, entered the order of the Ladies of Nazareth, taught in the convent school for the past 13 years, and had many relatives and scores of friends and associates, who esteemed her warmly. Miss Corley was operated upon at the hospital successfully, but a relapse came two days ago and she failed to rally.

Miss Corley was about 51 years old. Her entire education, practically speaking, she received at the school, of which she rose to be the head. She entered in while still a mere girl, graduating in 1884. After teaching for several years in New York City, Buffalo and finally Swanton, where she remained about ten years, she came back to Burlington.

The surviving relatives include a sister, Mrs. D. A. Robbins; a brother, Martin H. Corley, and an uncle, P. H. Corley, all of this city. An aunt, Mrs. Martin Clarke of New York City, and several cousins also survive.

## SERIOUS COAL SHORTAGE

Middlebury Dealer Is Down to the Last Spoonful.

Middlebury, Dec. 21.—The coal situation has become serious. Emery Wissell, the well known dealer, has got clouted out down to a spoonful, owing to the fact that a great many carloads ordered by him in good season are sidetracked somewhere and tracers here had to be sent out to locate them.

In the meanwhile many people in the village are getting down to their last hoards and are consequently becoming anxious over the outlook. During the past few days several sleighloads of coal have been brought in from the nearest available coal depots, but this little help goes only a short way towards relieving the situation and there is scarcely any wood in sight.

## FUNERAL OF DAVID BOLLES.

Was Held from His Late Home On Upper Hill Street.

The funeral of David Bolles, a veteran of the Civil war, whose death occurred at his home on upper Hill street Tuesday morning, was held at the house Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. Rev. B. G. Lipsky, pastor of the Methodist church, officiating. Among those who attended were a number of Grand Army members. The bearers were: Clarence B. Bolles, Wallace Bolles, sons of the deceased; Charles Johnson, a son-in-law, and Walter Johnson, a grandson of Mr. Bolles. There were several fine floral tributes. Interment was made in Elmwood cemetery.

SAYS U. S.  
IS NEAR  
TO WAR

Secretary of State Lansing,  
Issuing a Statement Explaining President's Action in Sending Note on Peace, Declares That This Country Is on the Very Verge of Conflict

ALL NEUTRALS  
DEEPLY INVOLVED

Declares Position Is Becoming Increasingly Critical—Ambassador Von Bernstorff Made a Call on Secretary Lansing To-day

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—Secretary of State Lansing to-day, in explaining the sending of the president's note to the belligerents, declared it was because the situation for neutrals was becoming increasingly critical and because the United States itself was being drawn near the verge of war.

Secretary Lansing's statement said in part: "It is not our material interest we had in mind when the note was sent but more and more our rights were becoming involved by the belligerents of both sides so that the situation was becoming increasingly critical. I mean by that that we are drawing nearer the verge of war ourselves and therefore we are entitled to know exactly what each belligerent seeks in order that we may regulate our conduct in the future. No nation has been sounded. No consideration of the German overtures or of the speech of Lloyd-George was taken into account in the formulation of the document. The only thing the overtures did was to delay it for a few days."

Lansing's statement obviously had the approval of the president, although the president would make no comment. Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, conferred with Secretary Lansing to-day and it is understood the secretary explained the president's action in addressing the belligerents.

## SADNESS MULTIPLIED.

His Two Brothers Died in War and His Daughter While Visiting in Scotland.

Yesterday was a day of evil tidings for James Coutts of North Main street, a member of the Bonacore Football club and prominent in Barre soccer circles. The morning's mail brought him the latest from relatives in Scotland advising him that his two brothers, aged 20 and 21, had been killed while fighting with the Highland regiment somewhere in France. Mr. Coutts himself is confined to the house by illness, and the news from overseas did not tend to improve his mental well being. As if to accentuate his grief, came a cablegram in the afternoon informing him of the death of his daughter, a child of two years, who was passing the winter in Aberdeen. The little girl's death occurred at 9 o'clock Wednesday morning.

Mr. Coutts' daughter left for Scotland last spring and during the mother's absence from America a second daughter was born in the family. The brothers of Mr. Coutts enlisted in Aberdeen a year ago and had seen hard fighting along the western front.

## MORE POSSIBLE RECRUITS

Received for the Headquarters Company, V. N. G., in Barre.

More applications for membership in the headquarters company of the Vermont National Guard were received at the meeting held in the city court room last evening, bringing the total up to 44 out of 58 needed for the complete company. Three of the new men were for the band and one for the mounted orderlies section. Another meeting will be held on Dec. 29, when physical examinations will be conducted by Dr. J. H. Woodruff. F. C. Dunham of Northfield, who had charge of the regimental band last summer, addressed the meeting last evening, telling of the steps for organization and expressing the belief that it ought to be possible to develop a fine organization in Barre.

## BURLINGTON LEADS.

In the Sale of Red Cross Christmas Seals.

Burlington, Dec. 21.—The school children of this city lead in the sale of Red Cross Christmas seals, returns having been received from five of the larger places in the state where the schools entered the competition. The